

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces any earlier listing:

1. (currently amended) An antimicrobial composition, comprising an antimicrobial effective amount of a mixture of two, three or more straight-chain 1,2-alkanediols, the chain lengths of which (i) are different and (ii) in each case are in the range of 5 to 10 C atoms, wherein said effective amount is that amount which results in a Kull value of less than 1.
2. (previously presented) The antimicrobial composition according to Claim 1, wherein the proportions of the said diols in the mixture are set such that ~~their antimicrobial action is synergistically intensified~~ a Kull value of 0.83 or less results.
3. (previously presented) The antimicrobial composition according to Claim 1, wherein the mixture contains 1,2-hexanediol and one, two or three further straight-chain 1,2-alkanediols, the chain length of which in each case is in the range of 5 to 10 C atoms.
4. (currently amended) An antimicrobial composition comprising an antimicrobial effective amount of a mixture of at least one of:
 - (a) 1,2-hexanediol and 1,2-octanediol,
 - (b) 1,2-hexanediol and 1,2-decanediol,
 - (c) 1,2-pentanediol, 1,2-hexanediol and 1,2-octanediol,
 - (d) 1,2-hexanediol, 1,2-octanediol and 1,2-decanediol and
 - (e) 1,2-pentanediol, 1,2-hexanediol and 1,2-decanediol

as antimicrobial active compound, the proportions of the said diols in the mixture being set such that ~~their antimicrobial action is synergistically intensified~~ a Kull value of 1.0 or less results.

5. (currently amended) The antimicrobial composition according to Claim 1, wherein the proportion of each individual diol is in the range of 1 to 99% (m/m) ~~preferably in the range of 20 to 80% (m/m)~~, based on the total mass of the mixture of the diols.
6. (canceled)
7. (currently amended) An antimicrobial composition comprising an antimicrobial effective amount of a mixture of two, three or more straight-chain 1,2-alkanediols, the chain lengths of which (i) are different and (ii) in each case are in the range of 5 to 10 C atoms, wherein the proportions of the said diols in the mixture are set such that ~~their antimicrobial action is synergistically intensified~~ a Kull value of 1.0 or less results for at least one of:
 - (a) the cosmetic treatment of microorganisms causing body odour,
 - (b) the cosmetic treatment of microorganisms causing acne,
 - (c) the cosmetic treatment of microorganisms causing mycoses,
 - (d) the treatment of microorganisms on or in inanimate material and
 - (e) the preservation of a perishable product.
8. (currently amended) A method for inhibiting microbial growth on a human or animal body, said method comprising
preparing an antimicrobially active pharmaceutical ~~An antimicrobial~~ composition comprising an antimicrobial effective amount of a mixture of two, three or more straight-chain 1,2-alkanediols, the chain lengths of which (i) are different and (ii) in each case are in the range of 5 to 10 C atoms, and

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~~applying said composition topically to a human or animal body for the preparation of an antimicrobially active pharmaceutical agent, wherein the proportions of the said diols in the mixture are set such that their antimicrobial action is synergistically intensified a Kull value of 1.0 or less results.~~

9. (previously presented) An antimicrobial composition according to Claim 1, wherein an antimicrobial active compound is used as a further constituent of the mixture in an amount at which the antimicrobial action of the alkanediol mixture is synergistically intensified, the further antimicrobial active compound not being a straight-chain 1,2-alkanediol.
10. (currently amended) An antimicrobial composition, comprising:
- (a) as antimicrobial active compound, a mixture of two, three or more straight-chain 1,2-alkanediols, the chain lengths of which (i) are different and (ii) in each case are in the range of 5 to 10 C atoms, and
 - (b) an excipient compatible with the said mixture, wherein the proportions of the said diols in the mixture are set such that a Kull value of 1.0 or less results.
11. (currently amended) An antimicrobial composition, comprising
- (a) an antimicrobial effective amount of a mixture of two, three or more straight-chain 1,2-alkanediols, the chain lengths of which (i) are different and (ii) in each case are in the range of 5 to 10 C atoms, and
 - (b) a preservative other than ~~(a)~~ straight-chain 1,2-alkanediols, wherein the proportions of the said diols in the mixture are set such that a Kull value of 1.0 or less results.

12. (previously presented) An antimicrobial composition as in claim 11, wherein said preservative (b) is selected from the group consisting of benzoic acid and the esters and salts thereof, propionic acid and salts thereof, salicylic acid and salts thereof, 2,4-hexanoic acid and salts thereof, formaldehyde and paraformaldehyde, 2-hydroxybiphenyl ether and salts thereof, 2-zincsulphidopyridine-N-oxide, inorganic sulphites and bisulphites, sodium iodate, chlorobutanol, 4-ethylmercury-(II)-5-amino-1,3-bis(2-hydroxy)benzoic acid and salts and esters thereof, dehydracetic acid, formic acid, 1,6-bis(4-amidino-2-bromophenoxy)-n-hexane and salts thereof, the sodium salt of ethylmercury-(II)-thiosalicylic acid, phenylmercury and salts thereof, 10-undecylenic acid and salts thereof, 5-amino-1,3-bis(2-ethylhexyl)-5-methyl-hexahydropyrimidine, 5-bromo-5-nitro-1,3-dioxane, 2-bromo-2-nitro-1,3-propanediol, 2,4-dichlorobenzyl alcohol, N-(4-chlorophenyl)-N'-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-urea, 4-chloro-m-cresol, 2,4,4'-trichloro-2'-hydroxy-diphenyl ether, 4-chloro-3,5-dimethylphenol, 1,1'-methylene-bis(3-(1-hydroxymethyl-2,4-dioximidazolidin-5-yl)urea), poly-(hexamethylene diguanide) hydrochloride, 2-phenoxyethanol, hexamethylenetetramine, 1-(3-chloroallyl)-3,5,7-triaza-1-azonia-adamantane chloride, 1(4-chlorophenoxy)-1(1H-imidazol-1-yl)-3,3-dimethyl-2-butanone, 1,3-bis-(hydroxy-methyl)-5,5-dimethyl-2,4-imidazolidinedione, benzyl alcohol, octopirox, 1,2-dibromo-2,4-dicyanobutane, 2,2'-methylene-bis(6-bromo-4-chloro-phenol), bromo-chlorophene, mixture of 5-chloro-2-methyl-3(2H)-isothiazolinone and 2-methyl-3(2H)isothiazolinone with magnesium chloride and magnesium nitrate, 2-benzyl-4-chlorophenol, 2-chloracetamide, chlorhexidine, chlorhexidine acetate, chlorhexidine gluconate, chlorhexidine hydrochloride, 1-phenoxy-propan-2-ol, N-alkyl(C₁₂-C₂₂)trimethyl-ammonium bromide and chloride, 4,4-dimethyl-1,3-oxazolidine, N-hydroxymethyl-N-(1,3-di(hydroxymethyl)-2,5-dioxoimidazolidin-4-yl)-N'-hydroxymethyl urea, 1,6-bis(4-amidino-phenoxy)-n-hexane and salts thereof, glutaraldehyde 5-ethyl-1-aza-3,7-dioxabicyclo(3.3.0)octane, 3-(4-chlorophenoxy)-1,2-propanediol,

hyamine, alkyl-(C₈-C₁₈)-dimethyl-benzyl-ammonium chloride, alkyl-(C₈-C₁₈)-dimethyl-benzyl ammonium bromide, alkyl-(C₈-C₁₈)-dimethyl-benzylammonium saccharinate, benzylhemiformal, 3-iodo-2-propinyl-butyl carbamate, sodium hydroxymethyl-aminoacetate or sodium hydroxymethyl-aminoacetate.

13. (previously presented) An antimicrobial composition as in claim 12, wherein said preservative (b) is 1,2-dibromo-2,4-dicyanobutane.
14. (previously presented) An antimicrobial composition as in claim 12, wherein said preservative (b) is 2-phenoxyethanol.
15. (previously presented) An antimicrobial composition as in claim 11, wherein said preservative (b) is 3-iodo-2-propinyl-butyl carbamate.
16. (previously presented) An antimicrobial composition as in claim 12, wherein said mixture (a) comprises 1,2-hexanediol or 1,2-octanediol.
17. (previously presented) An antimicrobial composition as in claim 11, wherein said mixture of straight-chain 1,2-alkanediols comprises 1,2-hexanediol and 1,2-octanediol.
18. (previously presented) An antimicrobial composition as in claim 11, further comprising a preservative.
19. (previously presented) An antimicrobial composition as in claim 18, wherein said preservative is 3-iodo-2-propinyl-butyl carbamate.

20. (previously presented) An antimicrobial composition as in claim 4, wherein said 1,2-hexanediol and 1,2-octanediol are present in a ratio of 1:1.
21. (previously presented) An antimicrobial composition as in claim 4, wherein said 1,2-hexanediol and 1,2-octanediol are present in a ratio of 2:1.